MOTION FOR ELECTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : Sir, I move the following Motion:

> 'That this House resolves that the Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 2000 and do proceed to elect, in ^accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, ten Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

RE REPORTED RESIGNATION OF TWO MEMBERS OF CABINET

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Sir, yesterday, I and some other hon. Members raised the issue of the reported resignation of two Members of the Cabinet, which had appeared in the Press. We had also read in the Press about the Prime Minister's reaction to their resignation. And, when I raised this matter, the hon. Leader of the House assured us that he would go back to the Prime Minister. Now, the Prime Minister is here in this House. I would request him to tell us what the state of affairs is.

प्रधानमंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी) : सभापति महोदय, मेरे मंत्रिमंडल के कुछ सदस्यों ने त्याग-पत्र देने की इच्छा प्रकट की थी। मैनें उसे स्वीकार नहीं किया, बात खत्म हो गयी।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : इच्छा प्रकट की थी या त्याग-पत्र प्रस्तुत किया था। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI PRANAB MUKHRJEE (West Bengal) No, Sir. This matter does not come to an end. There is a question of propriety. The Council of Ministers may be technically accountable to the other House. But, whenever some Ministers resign or they express their desire to resign, and it